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Chairperson: Ms. Ogwu ..... (Nigeria)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.10 a.m.

Agenda item 47: Macroeconomic policy questions (*continued*)

(d) Commodities (*continued*) (A/C.2/63/L.42)

Draft resolution on commodities

Agenda item 51: Globalization and interdependence (*continued*)

(a) Role of the United Nations in promoting development in the context of globalization and interdependence (*continued*) (A/C.2/63/L.34)

Draft resolution entitled "Towards a new international economic order"

Agenda item 52: Groups of countries in special situations (*continued*)

(a) Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries (*continued*) (A/C.2/63/L.39)

Draft resolution on the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries

(b) Specific actions related to the particular needs and problems of landlocked developing countries: outcome of the International Ministerial Conference of Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and Donor Countries and International Financial and Development Institutions on Transit Transport Cooperation (*continued*) (A/C.2/63/L.40)

Draft resolution on groups of countries in special situations: specific actions related to the particular needs and problems of landlocked developing countries: outcome of the International Ministerial Conference of Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and Donor Countries and International Financial and Development Institutions on Transit Transport Cooperation

1. **Ms. Greenaway** (Antigua and Barbuda) introduced draft resolutions A/C.2/63/L.34, L.39, L.40 and L.42 on behalf of the Group of 77 and China.

Agenda item 47: Macroeconomic policy questions (*continued*)

(a) International trade and development (*continued*) (A/C.2/63/L.35)

Draft resolution on the Report of the twelfth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development

2. **The Chairperson** introduced draft resolution A/C.2/63/L.35, which was being submitted by Mr. Hoppe (Germany), Vice-Chairperson of the Committee.

Agenda item 38: Permanent sovereignty of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and of the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan over their natural resources (*continued*) (A/C.2/63/L.5)

Draft resolution on the Permanent sovereignty of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and of the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan over their natural resources

3. **The Chairperson** invited the Committee to take action on draft resolution A/C.2/63/L.5. The draft resolution had no programme budget implications. She informed the Committee that a recorded vote had been requested.

4. **Mr. Hijazi** (Observer for Palestine) announced, on behalf of the main sponsor (Egypt), that Pakistan had joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

5. **Mr. Ali** (Syrian Arab Republic) asked who had requested the recorded vote.

6. **The Chairperson** said that the representative of the United States of America had requested the recorded vote.

7. *A recorded vote was taken on draft resolution A/C.2/63/L.5.*

In favour:

Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Cape Verde, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Estonia, Ethiopia, France, Gabon, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada,

Guatemala, Guyana, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, San Marino, Serbia, Singapore, Slovenia, Somalia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zimbabwe.

Against:

Australia, Canada, Israel, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), United States of America.

Abstaining:

Côte d'Ivoire, Fiji, Haiti, Nauru.

8. *Draft resolution A/C.2/63/L.5 was adopted by 139 votes to 6, with 4 abstentions.* *

9. **Mr. Ben-Eliezer** (Israel) said that his delegation was disappointed that the draft resolution had been adopted by the Committee, as it did not advance prospects for peace or deal adequately with shared natural resources, an issue that had always been negotiated bilaterally between parties to a conflict.

10. Regrettably, the draft resolution contained no reference to the regular attacks on Israeli citizens and border crossings by Hamas and others. Nor was there any mention of the incitement to hatred and violence that took place in Hamas-run schools. The fact that Hamas, a terrorist organization, was opposed to a two-State solution transformed a resolvable national conflict into an eternal ideological struggle.

11. The current draft resolution relied heavily on the language of the previous year's resolution and did not reflect the substantial progress made on the ground since, thus rendering it irrelevant. As in other resolutions, lambasting Israel seemed to take precedence over an objective reflection of reality. Under agreements between Israel and the Palestinian Authority, the latter already had jurisdiction over many natural resources, and interim arrangements had been established for others.

12. Cooperation was critical with regard to the sharing of natural resources, given the close geographic proximity of the two parties. It was crucial to seek out realistic solutions that looked beyond rigid concepts of sovereignty. Yet the draft resolution failed to contribute to a constructive dialogue. The Committee should focus its efforts on urgent global issues that concerned all countries, rather than take up items that singled out Israel for discriminatory treatment, which was an abuse of the Committee's mandate and ultimately damaged the ideals of the Organization.

13. **Mr. Kassianides** (France), speaking on behalf of the European Union; the candidate countries Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkey; the stabilization and association process countries and potential candidate countries Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro and Serbia; and the members of the European Free Trade Association Liechtenstein and Norway, said that the European Union countries had voted in favour of the draft resolution in the belief that the natural resources of any territory seized by force of arms should not be used inappropriately or illegally by the occupying Power. It wished, however, to explain its interpretation of certain aspects of the text.

14. The European Union reaffirmed the applicability to the Occupied Palestinian Territories of the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949 and also reaffirmed that any infringement of the rights of the Palestinian people with regard to that Convention was illegal. However, the issues referred to in the resolution were matters which needed to be dealt with in the framework of the

* The delegations of Belize, Brazil, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Finland, Guinea, Peru, Senegal, Saudi Arabia, Sweden, Trinidad and Tobago, Uganda and Zambia subsequently informed the Committee that they had intended to vote in favour of the draft resolution.

permanent status negotiations of the Middle East peace process.

15. The European Union remained committed — in close cooperation with its partners in the Quartet and in the Arab world — to assisting the parties in their efforts to find a final settlement to the Middle East conflict. The text that had just been adopted must therefore not be considered as prejudicial to the outcome of those negotiations.

16. The position of the European Union regarding the separation barrier and the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice on the legal consequences of the construction of a wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory remained unchanged.

17. **Mr. Hijazi** (Observer for Palestine) expressed appreciation to the Member States that had voted in favour of the draft resolution and thus reaffirmed their commitment to international law. A people's permanent sovereignty over its natural resources was part of its inalienable right to self-determination, and it must be safeguarded by the international community in the interest of peace and stability.

18. The accusations made by the representative of Israel revealed the fact that his Government had run out of excuses for continuing to snub the international community and the laws by which it lived. It was a moral and legal obligation of Member States to continue raising the issue of shared natural resources until Israel ceased exploiting Palestinian resources and compensated the Palestinian people for the losses that had resulted from its illegal practices.

19. With regard to cooperation on the ground, he said that Israel, as the occupying Power, had an obligation towards the people in the territory it occupied. Fulfilling that obligation, while positive, was not an act of goodwill. In addition, Israel's allegations of terrorism could not distract from the terrible acts it had committed against the Palestinian people. Such terrorist acts were planned at the highest level in Israel and had contributed to the disintegration of the Palestinian economy.

20. Peace in the region was a necessity, not a luxury. The foremost threat to that peace was the perpetuation of the Israeli occupation and its repressive policies. To bring about peace and security, Israel must cease its violations of international law and respect the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people.

Agenda item 47: Macroeconomic policy questions (*continued*)

(b) International financial system and development (*continued*) (A/C.2/63/L.9 and L.41)

Draft resolution on the international financial system and development

21. **The Chairperson** introduced draft resolution A/C.2/63/L.41, which was being submitted by Mr. Hoppe (Germany), Vice-Chairperson of the Committee, on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/63/L.9. The draft resolution had no programme budget implications.

22. *Draft resolution A/C.2/63/L.41 was adopted.*

23. *Draft resolution A/C.2/63/L.9 was withdrawn.*

24. **Mr. Porretti** (Argentina) expressed appreciation to the Bureau and to all those having participated in the negotiations for their collegial attitude.

(c) External debt and development: towards a durable solution to the debt problems of developing countries (*continued*) (A/C.2/63/L.7 and A/C.2/63/L.38)

Draft resolution on external debt and development: towards a durable solution to the debt problems of developing countries

25. **The Chairperson** introduced draft resolution A/C.2/63/L.38, which was being submitted by Mr. Hoppe (Germany), Vice-Chairperson of the Committee, on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/63/L.7. The draft resolution had no programme budget implications.

26. *Draft resolution A/C.2/63/L.38 was adopted.*

27. *Draft resolution A/C.2/63/L.7 was withdrawn.*

Agenda item 49: Sustainable development (*continued*) (A/C.2/63/L.2/Rev.1 and Add.1)

Draft resolution on the International Year of Chemistry

28. **The Chairperson** said that the draft resolution had no programme budget implications.

29. **Ms. Zemene** (Ethiopia) said that adoption of the draft resolution would contribute positively to the learning of young children and other students in the natural sciences throughout the world.

30. **Ms. de Laurentis** (Secretary of the Committee) said that Armenia, Chile, Gabon, Guyana, Iraq, Morocco, the Philippines, Swaziland and Turkey had joined the list of sponsors.

31. *Draft resolution A/C.2/63/L.2/Rev.1 and a list of additional sponsors (A/C.2/63/L.2/Rev.1/Add.1) were adopted.*

The meeting rose at 11.05 a.m.